priate splints are well illustrated. All make this book a most useful reference work.

Each major chapter is made complete by including additional reference material. The index is quite satisfactory. One is hard pressed to find fault with this work although a few misprints and mildly ambiguous comments can be alluded to but these do not detract from the otherwise fine presentation. The illustrations are clear and well reproduced and useful to illustrate the points specified in the text.

I would consider this to be the best book available on the market today on injuries of the peripheral nerves and their treatment.

W. EUGENE STERN, M.D.

PRACTICAL ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY—Third Edition—Henry J. L. Marriott, M.D., Director of Medical Education and Director of the Cardiology Center, Tampa General Hospital (Tampa, Florida); formerly Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Maryland; and Chief, Electrocardiograph Department, Mercy Hospital, Baltimore. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Md., 1962. 274 pages, \$5.50.

Practical Electrocardiography by Marriott, in its Third Edition, remains a simple, direct, and fundamental text emphasizing clinical application. The very brief explanation of vector forces is inadequate to give the beginner the vector concept of electrocardiographic interpretation.

The electrocardiographic illustrations are excellent. For the clinician who wishes to sharpen his interpretation of electrocardiograms by reading patterns, this is an excellent text. For the student who wishes to learn fundamental electrocardiography through a thorough understanding of vector gradients, the text is inadequate. This book presents no features which distinguish it from many other books on this subject.

GEORGE C. GRIFFITH, M.D.

RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY—Basic Physics and Instrumentation—Second Edition—Edith H. Quimby, Sc.D., Professor Emeritus of Radiology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, and Sergei Feitelberg, M.D., Director, Andre Meyer Department of Physics, The Mount Sinai Hospital; Assistant Clinical Professor of Radiology (Physics), College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. Lea & Febiger, Washington Square, Philadelphia 6, Pa., 1963. 343 pages, \$8.00.

Fission occurs in books as well as atoms. This work began, in its first edition, as a single volume on isotopes in medicine. One of the authors, Solomon Silver, has already published a separate volume on clinical applications, and now we have what is technically Volume I of the series, devoted to Basic Physics and Instrumentation.

First let me say that this is an excellent exposition of the subject in every way—well-written, thorough coverage, clear illustrations. Then let me add that fission has its dangers, in books as well as atoms. There will be a strong temptation, now that the "hard stuff" is segregated off, for clinicians to dip only into the volume on medical applications and leave the basic materials to physicists and those few physicians responsible for organizing and running isotope laboratories. This would be a mistake, for Drs. Quimby and Feitelberg have masterfully clarified topics of vital interest to all physicians, such as Radiation Hazards and Their Avoidance (including a few sane paragraphs on radioactive fallout), and Basic Measurements with Radiation Detectors.

Dozens of books are now in print dealing with radioactive isotopes in medicine. This one, and its companion volume, are among the very best.

JEROLD M. LOWENSTEIN, M.D.

A STUDY OF PSYCHOPHYSICAL METHODS FOR RELIEF OF CHILDBIRTH PAIN—C. Lee Buxton, M.D., Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Yale University School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. Pa., 1962, 116 pages, \$4.75.

To many an obstetrician, the term childbirth suggests a group of determined young women diligently performing ritualistic gymnastics under the direction of a zealous obstetrician and subsequently delivering in a rather primitive like fashion.

It is perhaps inevitable that Dr. Buxton, the successor to the chair of Herbert Thoms, one of America's pioneers in training programs for childbirth, should turn his attention to this matter. The view that Buxton presents in "A Study of Psychophysical Methods," is a balanced and rational survey of this subject which is too often approached on an emotional basis.

The author presents the results of a year long odyssey through some of the obstetrical clinics of Great Britain and the Continent, where childbirth preparation programs are in vogue. In successive chapters Buxton considers problems such as the nature of pain, the value of visual aids, the efficacy of exercises and relaxation, the contribution of the trained midwife, and the role of the husband. In the opinion of this reviewer this volume makes several contributions towards a proper understanding of childbirth preparation programs, by the profession.

Of most obvious value is the general survey of the programs used in various clinics. The reader learns that the techniques of Natural Childbirth, or Childbirth-withoutfear, as pioneered by Read and Heardman in England, by Jacobson in New York, and by Goodrich and Thoms in New Haven, consist of a combination of group physical training in exercises, relaxation and psychological conditioning. The emphasis in these programs may vary from the psychological approach in the Latin countries to the increased emphasis on gymnastics in Scandinavia. The author also describes the Autogene training of the German clinics, which attempts to develop controlled relaxation. Distinguished from this is the Childbirth-without-pain (Psychoprophylaxis) approach of the Russian and French clinicians, in which conditioned reflexes are supposedly developed by Pavlovian techniques in an attempt to block painful sensations. Dr. Buxton admits that an objective investigation of these various programs is impossible. In his comparative study he only reports impressions of the techniques themselves, and he discloses no outstanding advantages or personal preference for any one method.

A second offering of this essay is its re-emphasis that prepared patients need not deliver without the benefit of analgesic or anesthetic agents.

The third, and probably the most pertinent contribution in this book is the concept that support should be given to the parturient during her labor. In a tone reminiscent of Thoms, the author points out that the obstetrician's interest in and understanding of the woman in labor is probably the most important part of the preparation program. In this age of dramatic progress in the scientific basis of medical practice, with new developments in analgesic and anesthetic medications and techniques, it is encouraging to see Dr. Buxton emphasize our need of comparable advances in the art of medicine. To the parturient in childbirth the obstetrician can give nothing of more value than his time, understanding and sympathy.

This well prepared monograph has a particularly useful bibliography of the original American and European references. It can be thoroughly recommended to all members of the profession "to whom the woman about to become a mother, entrusts her life."

LAWRENCE D. LONGO, M.D.